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can be found with any of the books. The cases selected by Professors Kales and Vernier are very well adapted to the development of the subjects treated, and the annotations are adequate and pertinent. Perhaps an undue amount of space is devoted to the statutory liability of the wife for family expenses, a liability which exists in only a few states. A few minor errors and misstatements have crept into the book: on page 28, note 11, the holding in *Hardy v. Waters* is misstated; on page 292, *Fitts v. Hall* is stated as arising out of a sale of lands, instead of a sale of goods; and on page 327, note, *Hewitt v. Warren* is referred to as an action in deceit instead of in contract.

Judge Peck has prepared the best statement of the existing law of Domestic Relations that has come to the knowledge of the writer of this review. He gives a clear and concise statement of the present law and does not ignore or slight, as do so many writers, the historical development of the rules and the minority views on points as to which there is conflict of authority. It is hard to see how his work could be improved on, either in arrangement or in execution. Unfortunately the table of cases seems to be devised with an intent to conceal, instead of to disclose, the location of the cases cited.

E. H.

THE FIXED LAW OF PATENTS AS ESTABLISHED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE NINE CIRCUIT COURTS OF APPEALS, by William Macomber, Counsel in Patent Causes, Lecturer on the Law of Patents in Cornell University College of Law. Second Edition with Additions. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co., 1913. pp. clxix, 1044.

This is neither text-book, case-book, encyclopedia, nor digest, but rather a work sui-generis, although resembling somewhat more a digest than anything else.

The author has arranged his subject into topic headings, in alphabetical order instead of logical sequence, and under each heading has collected numerous cases stating the law and the rules pertinent thereto. To this extent the book is like a digest, but the citations consist not so much of condensations, or digests, of the cases as of statements of the law therein declared, in clear, concise excerpts or, so nearly as possible, in the words of the decision.

This has necessitated, apparently, a close reading of the cases themselves, not merely a perusal of the syllabi, with resulting exactness. For this very reason, however, it behooves the practitioner who would make use of a statement to read the case himself, for the excerpts, while not of dicta, are often from a minor point in the case, sometimes one entirely foreign to the real decision.

The law of patents being founded wholly on statute, the decisions are necessarily as to its interpretation and application to particular facts. In this latter regard the excerpts are occasionally so lacking in statement of facts as to be quite unintelligible to a lawyer unfamiliar with this particular subject, and for even a patent lawyer many of them would be rather references to a possibly pertinent case than a summary thereof. The title is due, the author says, to the fact that he has used only those rulings which have

been authoritatively expounded and "fixed" by courts of appellate jurisdiction, and covers only patent law proper, not patent-soliciting, copyrights, nor trademarks so frequently associated therewith.

The book is not, nor does it pretend to be, any fashion of text-book for one not already somewhat familiar with patent law. Its use is collateral, like that of an encyclopedia. But for the practicing patent-lawyer, it is an elaborate collection of authoritative and illuminating rulings on the subject, convenient in form, amply provided with cross references so that a general idea of the heading under which a point might come should eventually lead to the precise topic, exhaustive and exact.

J. B. W.

THE CANADIAN TORRENS SYSTEM, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE STATUTES OF MANITOBA, SASKATCHEWAN AND ALBERTA AND OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA; AND WITH A COLLECTION OF FORMS, STATUTES AND LEADING CASES. By Douglas J. Thom, B.A., of Osgoode Hall, Barrister-at-Law, and of the Bar of Saskatchewan; formerly of the Bar of the Northwest Territories. Calgary: Burroughs & Co., Law Publishers, 1912: pp. xxvi, 782.

It is unfortunate that the public discussion of the merits and failings of the Torrens System of Land Registration has been so acrimonious and bitter, and it is still more unfortunate that this same partisan attitude has been carried into most of the books which have been written on the subject in the United States; the proponents of the system claiming that it is a panacea for all the ills of our real property law, its opponents claiming that it is a useless complication and that its only effect will be to produce chaos and confiscation. We welcome Mr. Thom's book as a clear and unprejudiced statement of what the system has actually accomplished in our neighboring commonwealth.

The writer of this review expresses no opinion as to the advisability of the adoption of the Torrens System in the states of this country; he does, however, protest against the unscientific, narrow-minded attitude in which the problem has been approached by most of the writers and lecturers.

According to Mr. Thom, the Torrens System has been a real success in Canada, which, however, does not mean that necessarily it would be a success here. Perhaps one of the most interesting parts of the book, at least to people of this country, is the introduction, which outlines the history of the system, its general purpose, and the evils it is designed to remedy.

The text of the book covers in detail the operation of the system in the Canadian provinces, the manner of bringing land under registration, the subsequent transfers and transactions with reference to the land registered, the functions and duties of the courts and officers, the assurance fund, and the purpose and effect of the caveat. There are appendixes containing copies of the statutes, scale of tariffs, forms, and opinions in a few leading cases.

Although our legal system is such as to make the Canadian Torrens System in its entirety impossible here, at least without constitutional changes, anyone interested in the general subject will find Mr. Thom's book to be of interest.

R. W. A.